

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-17 are amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Objection to the Specification

A. Abstract

The Office Action indicates that the application does not contain an Abstract. An Abstract is attached with this Amendment to obviate the objection.

B. Arrangement of the Specification

The Office Action objects to the arrangement of the specification. The specification has been amended to obviate the objection.

II. Objection to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claims 1, 8-10 and 13 based on minor informalities. The claims have been amended to obviate the objections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 9, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 9, 15 and 17 have been amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Chao (U.S. Patent No. 5,313,639); rejects claims 5, 7 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chao in view of Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,354); and rejects claims 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chao in view of Dayan (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,786). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, Chao does not disclose or suggest a control device...to select a state in which the computer is to operate and to establish the electrical interconnections to a selected group of units to be operable in the selected state, and following this, and before the computer is

configured, to establish the electrical interconnection between the power supply unit and the motherboard, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 16.

Chao discloses at col. 2, lines 52-60, a method of holding a clock of a main board while determining whether or not there is a match between an input and a stored password. Stated differently, Chao relates to password protected access to a complete system and does not disclose or suggest powering the main board of the computer until after it has been established which of the peripherals should be enabled.

Furthermore, the motherboard recited in claim 1 is the motherboard of the computer. On the contrary, the "main system board 44" in Chao is in the control unit 3 (See Fig. 2) and not in the computer 4, which is shown in Fig. 1. That is, Fig. 2 of Chao only shows a control unit 3, and even the keyboard 2 is shown to be outside the dotted line representing the control unit 3. Therefore, Chao's control unit 3 does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of independent claim 1. For similar reasons, Chao does not disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 16.

Neither Lee nor Dayan compensates for the above-noted deficiencies of Chao. Lee discloses in Fig. 2 and at col. 6, lines 9-14 an energy-conserving power-supply system 210 that includes keep-alive power-distributing circuitry for continuously supplying low-amperage DC power and switchable power-distributing circuitry for selectively supplying high-amperage DC power only when needed.

Dayan discloses at col. 4, lines 39-49 a movement detecting apparatus where, upon detecting movement, activates a temper evident mechanism, and thus the system can only be activated after a power-off by a system owner, an authorized user or a normal user properly entering a Power On Password or a Privileged Access Password in response to a prompt for a password during a power up routine.

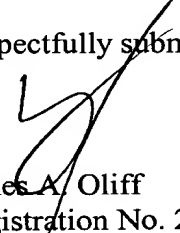
Therefore, independent claims 1 and 16 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-15 and 17-18 depend on the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:
Abstract

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